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Snooping Probe Set to Start on Thursday

By JOHN CRAMER

A Senate Sub-committee headed by Sen. Edward V. Long (D., Mo.) has scheduled open hearings starting next Thursday on electronic snooping by Government agencies — including snooping on Federal employees.

The Sub-committee has a charter to investigate invasions of privacy by Government.

This does not confine it to an examination of the use and abuse of electronic ears, electronic eyes and other Big Brother devices.

PEEPHOLES

It will also go into such things as psychiatric tests for prospective Federal employees, and peephole balconies in post offices to spy on postal workers.

Thursday's hearing will be devoted to an examination of assorted electronic snooping devices, plus testimony by Harold Lipset, San Francisco, an expert in the field.

A second public session, Feb. 23, will examine some of the uses of the snooping devices.

Says Sen. Long:

"When we talk about Government agencies, we are not just talking about the FBI and the CIA. We are talking about a whole raft of state and

local agencies, as well as a vast number of Federal agencies that have nothing to do with national security.

"We know that these non-security Federal agencies have bought large quantities of very expensive and very sophisticated eavesdropping gear.

"We do not have a complete run-down on what all the agencies have bought but we do know that some strange ones like the Food and Drug Administration and the Forest Service are among the purchasers. We do not know exactly how much they have bought but we have seen vouchers running into many thousands of dollars.

"More important, we do not know on whom the Federal agencies have used the gear. The public? Their own employees? Both? Nor do we know all of the purposes to which it has been put."

More power to you, Senator!